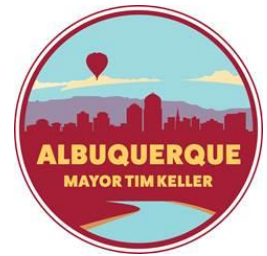


# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council

714 Seventh Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
Zoom Meeting  
February 22, 2021

### Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:09 pm
  - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Louis Carlentine, Lucy Lopez, Steve Borbas, Allison Weber, Jennifer Roth, Bobbi Carmona-Young, Dubra Karnes-Padilla, and Onastine Jaramillo,
  - b. Absent:
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Evan motioned for approval of January minutes, Onastine seconds. January minutes approved.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Evan motions for approval of February agenda, Onastine seconds. February agenda approved.
- IV. Public Participation
  - a. No public present during this virtual meeting.
- V. Andrew West – Age Friendly Designation
  - a. Anna introduces Andrew West as the Project Manager for the age friendly initiative. Andrew has been working on this initiative for about a year now; Andrew will go over some of the high points of the action plan and talk about what this means for us as a department. The main thing for the new folks on the council to know are that DSA will be asking for help in championing this effort moving forward.
  - b. Andrew reported that initially the plan was to have big community events to get the public involved in the process so they could generate really good actionable ideas and strategies that came from input from the community but then directed through functions within City Departments. That being said, with the pandemic they couldn't have any real in person events, but with how well Anna and Anthony have pivoted services they were able to garner over 1,300 responses from community participants, they interviewed over 50 members of the community, and they were able to interview those that did not have computer access, over the phone. There are 3 general areas that the action plan is focused on; first is to raise awareness on the programs that already exist. The second focus was how to engage the other city departments to help with making the whole city age friendly. The third focus is how do we build more connections between people and their neighborhoods.
  - c. Anna stated that the plan is to create a committee that will perhaps meet quarterly to identify how to move this initiative forward and invite any member on this council that is interested to reach out so we add them to that subcommittee. Steve mentioned that he is part of the board of retirees' association and they brought up the age friendly initiative and said they are very interested in cooperating. It really is about taking care of individuals and how

do we get them involved moving forward? Dubra also had a question about how to get this information added to their neighborhood newsletter to help spread the word. Anthony mentioned that the information and commitment form can be found on the City's Age Friendly website. Andrew also added that there is a form for individual families to fill out. Anna stated that moving forward, the subcommittee will conduct outreach to continue to spread the messaging. Kinsey Cooper, our Marketing Specialist, has also created a comms plan with AARP that will be used in conjunction with the outreach so there will be common terminology used throughout the City. Evan asked Andrew if there was another city with similar demographics and population that has received the designation. Andrew said Santa Clara, CA was similar, not in demographics, but the way they organized the plan. He also mentioned to check out Tucson, AZ online at AARP's website.

## VI. Administrative Reports

- a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos
  - a. Agnes reported that they are working diligently to get folks registered for the COVID-19 vaccine. She reported that they stood up a senior card assistance program in which they have gift cards to various grocery stores and they provide them to seniors who need financial help and help with buying groceries. It also has a focus on buying culturally relevant food; they received some feedback from the food bags they gave out that reported that folks would like to receive different types of food they would normally buy.
  - b. Agnes reported that they recently hired a new Program Manager, Debra Montano, who comes to them from Family and Community Services, she started last week. She reported that she is currently interviewing for a newly created position which is a Community Volunteer Engagement Manager, which will oversee the recruitment of volunteers for the department as well as oversee the senior corps programs. Agnes also has an Assistant Maintenance Supervisor starting in March to help out in Home Services so March can't come soon enough.
- b. Recreation Division- Nikki Peone
  - a. Nikki reported that last weekend, due to the storm, they were asked to stand up an emergency shelter at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center to help bring in folks who needed shelter from the freezing temperatures. Over a three-day period, they sheltered over 20 of the homeless population and though it was stressful at the time, because it was something they've never done before, it really brought them together as a team and built up comradery. They were happy to help the community during this time, and it was successful.
  - b. Nikki reported that since Bernalillo County is in yellow, they have taken the necessary steps to begin reopening two of their fitness centers; Palo Duro and Los Volcanes Fitness Centers. It will be on an abbreviated scheduled by appointment only. They are also looking at potentially opening some of the centers for small activities. Right now, with taxes underway, they are busier than anticipated, but are looking at ways to add a few more activities as safely as possible.
- c. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Timothy Martinez
  - a. Tim reported that they are still serving around 1,500 home-delivered meals and around 1,500 meals at the grab and go sites. Additionally, they are delivering the last of the additional food meal boxes, the last of them being distributed on Wednesday. They have distributed approximately 16,000 boxes over the last couple of months.

- b. Tim reported that transportation continues to have their 10 regular HDM routes going, in addition to the 15 emergency HDM meal routes going. They have been addressing a few vacancies. They are working to fill their Sr. Office Assistant position, and have scheduled some Kitchen Aide interviews this week.
- d. Deputy Director – Anthony Romero
  - a. Anthony reported that his last day with the department will be on Friday. He has accepted the position as the Human Resources Director for the City of Albuquerque. He is very excited to begin this new role, and thanked Anna for taking this department to a new level. He thanked the council for their role in helping get the department to a higher level and only envisions that role getting more important in continuing to move the department forward and highlight the work they do. He is thankful for all they give to the community.
- e. Director – Anna Sanchez
  - a. Anna reported that one of the things she will be focusing on is getting the senior tech program up and running. They are trying to promote the partnership with Adelante’s Diverse IT. She mentioned that they recently conducted a technology survey of about 220 seniors we serve meals to regarding their comfort level with technology and what types of access to it they currently have. They are trying to launch a loaner device program and they identified about 80 folks who are interested in receiving a loaned device and some that do have internet access, just no technology.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. Steve asked if there was help that a senior could get from the department regarding cracked sidewalks or trees that have become too large. Anthony answered that they have tried to request funding for this in the past. Anna mentioned that this is definitely something we will continue to work on is getting the funding to help in these capacities, they can even look at the possibility of grant funds. Agnes mentioned that folks should still continue to call the 764-6400 number and see if there is any way the department can help. They have helped with citation negotiation and helped with performing work within their scope.
- b. Evan asked if the staff have received any notification on when they may be able to receive the vaccine. Anna responded that the staff had an opportunity to receive to their first vaccine on Saturday. They will get their second dose in about a month so that is definitely one positive thing they were able to secure for them.
- c. Louis expressed his excitement about the Los Volcanes Fitness Center reopening, he likes to stay in shape. The key thing is going to be safety so he is looking forward it.
- d. Onastine stated that she has received a call for help from Encino Terrace senior apartments that they have not received any vaccinations and they have about 150 residents. Also, the Los Volcanes senior apartments if they can receive any help. She asked if the department is planning to require vaccines when we reopen. Anna responded that they are not, as they are not requiring employees to receive the vaccine so it would be difficult to enforce that. They have talked to Thea with the Albuquerque Housing Authority who is working closely with the Emergency Operations Center on trying to find out when certain points of distribution will be scheduled. For example, they are looking at Los Volcanes as a potential site and of course they would get that information to the council who can share it out to the community. Getting registered is important so the DOH knows there are people still needing the vaccine. Anna asked Onastine to send her the contact information for the Los Volcanes senior community so they can continue to keep them on their radar. Anthony

mentioned that it is an Albuquerque Housing complex so they will continue to reach out to Thea and see if she can help, especially as the vaccine becomes more widely available.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. Evan mentioned that the new advisory council member, Havens, will be joining the next meeting and we look forward to meeting her.

IX. Old/New Business

- a. None at this time.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time.

XI. Adjournment – Evan calls for motion to adjourn, Steve seconds. Meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.